

CIVIC CENTER PARK HITS SNAG

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Torrance Herald

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JOHN S. GIBSON JR. ... Tosses Hat in Ring

Gibson, Goss Bid for Mayor, Councilman Post

John S. Gibson Jr., of San Pedro, who has served as councilman of the 15th District for the past five years, and has headed the city council as president for the past three years, has announced his intention of entering the campaign for mayor of Los Angeles.

Gibson is seeking the job now held by Norris Paulson, who announced several weeks ago that he would not seek reelection.

Shortly after Councilman Gibson made his announcement, Joe Goss who has served as Gibson's public relations man and field deputy since 1951, said he would be a candidate for the vacated council seat.

Both the mayor and council races will be decided at the April city election. Councilman Gibson paid high tribute to the part the community press has played in his political career and said today "the splendid cooperation I have received from the community press has been a great help in the performance of my official duties. I deeply appreciate their assistance and I sincerely hope that I can continue to merit their support."

Ken Sutton to Direct New PV Players' Production

Readings for the forthcoming Palos Verdes Players' production, "Goodbye, My Fancy," will be held tonight and tomorrow at 7:30 p.m. at the Malaga Cove School, officials have revealed.

Production dates are set for Nov. 29, 30 and Dec. 1. The comedy is the story of a Congressman, Agatha Reed, who returns to her alma mater for an honorary degree. The welcoming committee includes students, professors, trustees and the college president, who vies for Miss Reed's favor with a magazine photographer.

Ken Sutton, a veteran of Broadway productions, with credits also in television and motion pictures, will direct the comedy. Under a new policy of the Palos Verdes Players, a different director will be used for each of the three productions during the coming season.

Sutton, who has been in show business for 15 years, trained at the Goodman Theater, School of Drama at the Art Institute in Chicago, and Manhattan's Columbia University. He has worked with such well-known theatrical personalities as Michael Redgrave, Julie Harris and Flora Robson.

First place winner of the Pancake Race will receive a cash prize of \$25 and will represent the Kiwanis Club of Torrance with other city winners from California at the Annual Pancake Derby to be held at Disneyland, March 3 and 5, 1957, for the California championship and many other prizes.

City's Traffic Problems Aired

Five characteristics which are essential to the economic health of a business community were outlined for the city this week by Zigmund M. Danis, traffic investigator for the Southern California Auto Club.

In a report handed to Councilmen this week following his limited survey of Torrance, Danis said the five essential characteristics included:

1. Accessibility—deals with the ease with which a person can reach the given community either by public transportation or by private automobile.

2. Circulation—the phase concerned with the movement of pedestrians and vehicles within the business district. The ability of pedestrians to cross a thoroughfare with ease and safety, and to move from store to store, is of considerable importance to the entire business community.

3. Terminals—include the community's parking, loading, and unloading facilities. Terminals for private automobile and public transit units must be located so that potential shoppers will be able to reach destination with a minimum walking distance and a minimum conflict with vehicular traffic.

4. Appearance—is concerned with the development of business property in an attractive manner and in harmony with the general design and character of the business community.

5. Merchandising—the responsibility of the merchants and the professional men of the community. In his report, Danis said quality and variety of merchandise, service, advertising, and the like will determine the success or failure of a business district even though the four preceding elements of physical design are present.

"It is particularly important that the entire community of Torrance recognize and be concerned with the threat of deterioration of its central business district. If permitted to deteriorate, there no doubt will be a loss of assessed valuation and consequently of tax income to the city of Torrance which then must be spread over the remainder of the tax-paying element of the city."

Master Plan Advised The investigator commented on the addition of through



LEADING LEGIONNAIRES... Three Torrance members of the American Legion have recently assumed important posts in California. Edith I. White is vice commander for women of the Department of California; C. J. "Paddy" Ryan (center) is Los Angeles County Council chaplain, and W. E. Kalbfleisch has been named to the 19th District executive committee.

Local Plant to Get First Shot At New Product Development

First consideration in The National Supply Company's product diversification program will be given to the company's existing plants at Torrance and elsewhere. A. W. McKinney, president, said in New York Tuesday.

Speaking before the New York Society of Security Analysts, McKinney declared the capacity and production flexibility of the company's machinery and equipment manufacturing plants "seem adequate for the foreseeable future to cope with production increases, changes in designs, and new products."

The Torrance plant manufactures drilling rigs and other oil field machinery and also handles a wide variety of jobs on a contract basis for other west coast industries.

"In general, any new product which we might consider making in one of our plants should fit our manufacturing background and engineering experience," McKinney said. "We should be able to develop it with our existing research facilities and produce it with our existing equipment."

"On the other hand, we realize that opportunities for growth may also lie in products which do not fit the production programs of our existing plants, but which are otherwise compatible with the character of our organization. If we should become interested in such a product, involving perhaps the acquisition of

City to Outlaw Exhibitions by Bull Fighters

Although he has a modernistic bullfight scene hanging in his city hall office, Mayor Albert Isen wants no part of a bullfight in Torrance, he told Councilmen this week.

Referring to the clamor in Gardena for and against a proposed "bloodless" bullfight featuring famed Pat McCormick, the mayor asked for and got approval of the Council to instruct City Attorney Stanley E. Remelmeyer to draw up an urgency ordinance banning such exhibitions in Torrance.

"Who knows," Isen said, "they might erect some rodeo-type bleachers in North Torrance, and before we could do anything, they could have a bullfight there."

An ordinance against such events is due before the Councilmen next Tuesday evening.

Worker Hurt in Fall From Sprinkler System A 30-year-old Costa Mesa man was injured here Tuesday while helping to install an overhead sprinkler system, at 501 Arlington Ave., police report.

GROUP TO ORGANIZE

A senior citizens group will meet Tuesday evening, Oct. 2 at 8:30 p.m. at McMaster Park Hall, Yukon and 174th St.

Girl's Attackers Convicted In Long Session

After a trial that lasted two weeks in Long Beach Superior Court, five youths, charged with the mass rape and attack of a 14-year-old Lomita girl here on May 25, are awaiting sentencing in County Jail after all were found guilty in the drawn-out sessions.

The attackers, John Gomez, 18, of 23638 Pennsylvania Ave.; Jesus Grande, 20, of 2276 W. 203rd St.; Philip Perez, 18, of 2580 W. 235th St.; Tomas Soto, 18, of 2562 W. 235th St., and Joseph L. Fernandez, 18, of 1812 Marshallfield Lane, Redondo, all were tried separately.

They were accused of molesting the girl after they picked her up from her home and told her they were taking her to meet her boy friend. The gang then took the girl to a vacant lot, between Lomita Blvd. and Sepulveda Blvd., and held her captive for four hours while attacking her.

All were convicted on one count of rape. Soto, in addition, was convicted of immoral acts with the girl.

The quintet was joined in the attack by some eight to 10 other boys, most of them juveniles, disposition of whom was turned over to authorities at Juvenile Hall.

The five will be sentenced Oct. 17 in Department C, Long Beach Superior Court.

Worker Figures In Mishap Again

Melvin W. Killingsworth, 65, of Long Beach, figured in the second oil derrick accident within a week here when he suffered serious head injuries Tuesday while working at a well at 231st St. and Pennsylvania Ave.

He reportedly was hurt when a pushing rod fell against him, knocking him against a concrete pier.

Housewives to Meet in Pancake Race

All housewives of Torrance are invited to vie for cash prizes and national fame next Saturday, Sept. 29, by entering the Kiwanis Pancake Race to be held at El Prado Park, starting time 10 a.m. This race will be held in conjunction with the Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast being served at the Torrance Civic Auditorium on the same date.

First place winner of the Pancake Race will receive a cash prize of \$25 and will represent the Kiwanis Club of Torrance with other city winners from California at the Annual Pancake Derby to be held at Disneyland, March 3 and 5, 1957, for the California championship and many other prizes.

Second place winner will receive a cash prize of \$15 and third place winner \$5. All entrants will be served a Kiwanis Pancake breakfast and will receive an entry prize.

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Law May Work Against City

A technicality in the law may put a big hurdle in the path of the city if it pursues the plan to condemn a huge industrial site north of the civic center to be used as a central park, Acting City Attorney Stanley Remelmeyer told the HERALD yesterday.

Confirming reports that the city would face a strong fight if the matter reaches the courts, Remelmeyer pointed out that the State Civil Code provides that conclusive evidence of the necessity for the property for public use is contained in any resolution or ordinance approved by a two-thirds vote of the governing body. (This would require a four-fifths vote on the Torrance Council).

Inasmuch as two Councilmen, Willys Blount and Nickolas Drae, voted against the condemnation proceedings, this conclusive evidence of public need may not exist under law, and the landowner is permitted to contest the condemnation on grounds that the need does not exist. He has the opinion of two-fifths of the Council to support the protest.

Under the provision of Section 1241 of the Civil Code, the condemning body must show that the acquisition of the property is for an authorized use and of public necessity, that the property being condemned is needed for that use, and that the property is planned or located in a manner most compatible with the greatest public good, and the least private injury. Without the two-thirds vote of the condemning agency, these provisions must be proven.

The possibility that the city may have trouble sustaining its position before the courts was advanced by several sources yesterday as being the reason for a unanimous recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Commission that appraisal and condemnation proceedings be instituted against 109 acres for park sites—including a 55-acre tract at the civic center—was withdrawn from consideration before the Council Tuesday on the request of Commission Chairman Herma Tillim.

She told the Council that the Commission wanted to study the matter further and consider the possibility of employing an expert to survey the city's park situation.

The Council's action earlier this year in instituting condemnation proceedings against about 100 acres of the industrial land north of the civic center to be added to the 20 acres already there has been opposed by industry leaders and other community leaders who believe the land will be more valuable to the city as an industrial site.

A discussion of the park program was due before the Parks and Recreation Commission last night.

Local Man Dies in Car Crash Sunday

A local man was burned to death Sunday, police report, when his car was involved in a three-car collision at Slauson Ave. and Hooper, in Los Angeles.

Basil L. Fordham, 23, of 1437 E. 215th Pl., was burned to death at the scene of the crash, authorities said.

Car driven by Fordham, Arthur G. Smith, 24, of Los Angeles and Jacob McCoy, 49, of Los Angeles, were involved. Police reported that Smith was booked at Firestone Sheriff's Station on felony drunk driving after he reportedly ran a red light and slammed into Fordham's car, causing the wreck.

Smith received minor injuries. McCoy was not hurt, authorities said, but a passenger in his car, David Wall, 44, of Los Angeles was hurt seriously.

Fall Brings Safety Hints From Firemen

With the coming of the fall season and cooler weather, many of us will be turning on our furnaces or wall heaters for the first time in many months.

In order to receive the maximum efficiency and eliminate unnecessary smoke and odors from such appliances, these few simple precautions should be taken, reports Fire Chief J. J. Benner:

1. Remove the floor grating or wall panel and see that accumulations of lint and foreign objects are removed from the enclosed heater area.
 2. Before replacing the floor grate or wall panel, turn the furnace on and check the burners for adjustment.
 3. If the flame, either on the main burner or pilot light does not appear to be properly adjusted, call the repair service department of your local gas company.
- By taking these simple precautions now, you may save yourself several anxious moments and many hard-earned dollars later, Benner said.

Firemen Open Ticket Sales To Annual Ball

Tickets went on sale this week for the annual Firemen's Ball to be held at the American Legion Hall, 1109 Border Ave., Saturday evening, Oct. 6.

The Squires, popular orchestra that played for the group's spring dance, will furnish the music from 8 p.m. until 1 a.m.

Tickets may be purchased from any fireman. Proceeds of the dance are used to purchase supplies for the firemen's canteen which is wheeled out when firemen are on long fire assignments. Some of the Funds also are used to aid families burned out of their homes.

New Telephone Directory Due Here on Monday

Pacific Telephone has a sure-fire best seller about to be delivered to Torrance and Lomita exchange subscribers according to manager Dick Pyle.

It's the 1956 edition of the Southern Section telephone directory.

Scheduled for delivery Monday, the familiar green and white number book will be traded for the old one slated for the used paper mill.

Initial distribution of the book will reach over 57,000 copies and will include nearly 400,000 listings.

Yellow Pages users will be able to pinpoint the buyers' guide by use of a new index at the rear of the yellow section.

Pyle again extended a word of warning to those using the publication as a secret hiding place for currency or family heirlooms. He suggested they browse through the obsolete issue before the trade is made.

It seems the machine that grinds up old directories has no way of identifying a dollar bill, automobile registration slips or birth certificates—it just munches the daylight out of everything from cover to cover.

Lois Safred Now Nurse At Fort Belvoir, Va.

Army Nurse 1st Lt. Lois M. Safred, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bert D. Safred, 1348 W. 219th St., recently arrived at Fort Belvoir, Va., and is now assigned to the Army Hospital. Lieutenant Safred entered the Army Nurse Corps last July and was last stationed at Fort Sam Houston, Tex. The lieutenant was graduated from Los Angeles State College in 1955.